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Clinical criteria for the diagnosis of encephalitis

Major criteria (both required)
▪ Decreased level of consciousness, personality change, or psychiatric manifestations lasting >24 hours (in toddlers and infants, may present as increased irritability or lethargy)
▪ No alternative diagnosis to explain presentation
Minor criteria (presence of ≥2 in addition to both major criteria above)
▪ Fever (≥38.0°C)
▪ Seizure (new onset)
▪ Focal neurologic findings (new onset)
▪ CSF WBC ≥5/mm^3
▪ Acute abnormality on brain MRI
▪ Abnormal EEG consistent with acute neurologic dysfunction

CSF: cerebrospinal fluid; EEG: electroencephalography; MRI: magnetic resonance imaging; WBC: white blood cell count.

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